

# The Saint Bede's Breviary: Companions of St. Luke Edition

## Vespers for Wednesday in Easter Week

(Wednesday in Easter Week)

### Opening Sentence

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15,16*

### The Invitatory

V: O God, make speed to save us.

R: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia

**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

## The Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 127 *Nisi Dominus*

*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> Unless the LORD builds the house, \*  
their labor is in vain who build it.

<sup>2</sup> Unless the LORD watches over the city, \*  
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

<sup>3</sup> It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; \*  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.

<sup>4</sup> Children are a heritage from the LORD, \*  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

<sup>5</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior \*  
are the children of one's youth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed is the man who has his quiver full of them! \*  
he shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's, hallelujah.*

### Psalm 50 *Deus deorum*

*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High, hallelujah.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.

<sup>3</sup> Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*  
for I am God, your God.
- 8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*  
your offerings are always before me.
- 9 I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, \*  
nor he-goats out of your pens;
- 10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, \*  
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.
- 11 I know every bird in the sky, \*  
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.
- 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, \*  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.
- 13 Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, \*  
or drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and make good your vows to the Most High.
- 15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; \*  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me."
- 16 But to the wicked God says: \*  
"Why do you recite my statutes, and take my covenant upon your lips;
- 17 Since you refuse discipline, \*  
and toss my words behind your back?
- 18 When you see a thief, you make him your friend, \*  
and you cast in your lot with adulterers.
- 19 You have loosed your lips for evil, \*  
and harnessed your tongue to a lie.
- 20 You are always speaking evil of your brother \*  
and slandering your own mother's son.

21 These things you have done, and I kept still, \*  
and you thought that I am like you."

22 I have made my accusation; \*  
I have put my case in order before your eyes.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, \*  
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; \*  
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High, hallelujah.*

### **Psalm 1** *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

*The Lord knows the way of the righteous, hallelujah!*

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*The Lord knows the way of the righteous, hallelujah!*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from 'John 15:1-11 (NRSV)'

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

*You have come to trust in God through Jesus who was raised from the dead and given glory, and so your faith and hope are fixed on God, hallelujah.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: \* the Almighty  
has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \* for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made  
to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*You have come to trust in God through Jesus who was raised from the dead and given glory, and so your faith and hope are fixed on God, hallelujah.*

## The Prayers

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

## Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## *Collect of the Day*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *A Collect for Protection*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the

coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### *Prayer for Mission*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*Pause and add prayers for healing, and intercessory and thanksgiving prayers here.*

### *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia

*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20*

## **Regina Caeli**

O Queen of heaven, be joyful : *Alleluia*

For he who was born of your body : *Alleluia*

Has arisen as he promised : *Alleluia*

Pray for us to the Father : *Alleluia*

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

R: *For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

Let us pray:

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave gladness to the world: Grant, we pray, that we, aided by the prayers of the Virgin Mary his mother, may attain to the joys of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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